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with a constant fear before their eyes of speaking too freely." But he gives another explanation that seems quite sufficient. Petty's "mind was essentially practical." He not only "would probably have preferred the relaxation of the fetters of Irish trade"—in which he had a pecuniary interest—"to any amount of proclamation of abstract truth," but his was a mind with no great gift for abstract truth. He illustrates the strength and weakness of practical men. They do much towards the removal of evils in detail, but they allow to remain, unchallenged, the very principles from which like evils are bound to spring afresh. And so there will always be room in the world for the theorist.

The character of Petty, as he himself here reveals it, is hardly an amiable one. Not only master of all the physical science of the time, but also an inventive genius; affectionate towards wife and children; gifted with a quiet humor, and a power of mimicry that entertained his companions (p. 159), and with the gift of expression that seems the common property of the men of his century; he had other qualities less likely to call forth admiration. His friend, Southwell, ventured to tell him, "there is generally imbibed such an opinion and dread of your superiority and reach over other men in the wayes of dealing that they hate what they feare" (p. 175). He was unseasonably pugnacious in the defence of what he deemed his rights, contending, as the same friend told him, "not for the vitalls, but for outward limbs and accessories, without which you can subsist with plenty and honor." Early success made him overweeningly self-confident; as when, with scant knowledge of law, he readily accepted a judgeship in the Irish Court of Admiralty (p. 248). He was notoriously close-fisted (pp. 289, 314); and even in his relations to his private friends he showed an evident want of delicacy of perception. The man who seeks to comfort his most intimate friend upon the death of his wife by reminding him that he can marry again (p. 259) is not attractive. And, besides, Petty was one of those who combine with a keen desire to benefit society an equally keen desire to feather their nests in the process; and such men are seldom liked.

W. J. ASHLEY.

Life of Adam Smith. By JOHN RAE. (London and New York : Macmillan and Co. 1895. Pp. xv, 449.)

MR. RAE has made not only a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the career of Adam Smith, but, incidentally, has presented an instructive picture of educational activity during the middle of the eighteenth century. Adam Smith, after studying at Glasgow College from 1737 to 1740, under teachers of unusual power, spent six years at the familiar Oxford of Gibbon,—years of valuable study to him, although his opinion of the university as a seat of learning is hardly less disparaging than that recorded by the great historian. The following years at Glasgow and Edinburgh were filled with the various activities of an old-time professor

who, in Dr. Holmes' phrase, filled not a chair but a settee. As a lecturer on literature, politics, morals, and economics, a college administrator, a travelling tutor in France, Smith gained that comprehensive knowledge of the world and wide outlook on life which distinguish him above most of his followers.

Intellectually he seems to have been most deeply indebted to Hutcheson at Glasgow, who, twenty years before any of the Physiocrats wrote a line, instilled into him the doctrine of natural liberty to which he was to give such an extensive application. Hardly less important than the influence of the philosopher was that of the great merchant Andrew Cochrane. This remarkable man was the founder of the Political Economy Club early in the decade of 1740–1750, the first organization of the kind on record. Cochrane was the leading spirit of this club, which met weekly during the thirteen years of Smith's residence in Glasgow. Of its discussions only brief hints have come down to us, but enough to indicate their value to Smith.

It is not possible here to follow Mr. Rae's painstaking narrative of Smith's life and work, or to do more than to give a glimpse of his character and of the early fortunes of his greatest work. The picture of Adam Smith, that gradually takes shape before one, is that of a typical eighteenth-century mind, largely emancipated from the bonds of tradition, glowing with the dry light of reason more than with deep emotion, thoroughly conventional and classical in taste, and showing no trace of the nascent romanticism. Smith enjoyed the friendship and respect of many of the greatest men of his age, with the conspicuous exception of Dr. Johnson.

When *The Wealth of Nations* appeared, early in 1776, it sold well, although with little help from the reviews. There was no notice of it in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, and *The Annual Register* gave it only two pages, while according Watson's *Philip II*. sixteen pages. The recognition abroad was almost immediate, coming first from Germany, where a poor translation appeared as early as 1776–1778. In 1777 the *Gelehrte Anzeigen* of Göttingen contained a review, and a course of lectures on the work was announced for the following winter at the university. Yet in spite of this early appreciation *The Wealth of Nations*, for a time, made little impress upon German thought. Roscher discovered hardly any references to it between 1776 and 1794. In France the case was different; the first version, by Blavet, was published, as a serial, in 1779–1780, and in book form in 1781. In spite of defects, which in the eyes of the Abbé Morellet made it so much a betrayal of the author as to prompt him to attempt a new version, it went through several editions. In 1790 there appeared a translation by Roucher, and in 1802 a third, the best of all, by Garnier. It was translated into Danish in 1779–1780, and into Italian in 1780. In Spain *The Wealth of Nations* received, at first, the flattering tribute of suppression by the Inquisition, on "account of the looseness of its style, and the lowness of its morals," but this dis-

approval was apparently only temporary, for in 1794 a Spanish edition in four volumes was issued.

In view of this remarkable diffusion of the work, it is, perhaps, rather surprising that *The Wealth of Nations* was not referred to in the House of Commons until seven years after its publication, when it was on the eve of a third edition. It was quoted as an authority next in 1787 and 1788, but not again until Pitt's admiring reference to it in his budget speech, February 17, 1792. The first reference to it in the House of Lords was in 1793.

But the influence of *The Wealth of Nations* on English policy was more marked than would appear from the parliamentary debates. In 1777 Lord North imposed two new taxes which had been suggested in its pages, one on man-servants, and one on property sold at auction. The inhabited house duty and the malt tax of the budget of 1778 were also derived from the same source. The extensive, but unacknowledged, use made of *The Wealth of Nations* by Hamilton, in his Report on Manufactures in 1791, has, apparently, escaped Mr. Rae's notice. The reactionary feeling arising from the French Revolution, as it retarded all movements of political reform, likewise checked the influence of *The Wealth of Nations*, although without seriously impairing its sale.

EDWARD GAYLORD BOURNE.

The Decline and Fall of Napoleon. By Field-Marshal VISCOUNT WOLSELEY, K.P. (Boston : Roberts Brothers. 1895. Pp. viii, 203.) *The Rise of Wellington.* By General LORD ROBERTS, V.C. (Boston : Roberts Bros. 1895. Pp. x, 198.)

THESE admirable monographs, by the new Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, and by the special pet and hero of to-day's British soldier, giving in a crisp *résumé* the last half of the career of Napoleon, and the entire career of Wellington, form an initial part of the Pall Mall Magazine Library, and contain information, not indeed new, but so concentrated that the reader, whom sparse time forbids Jomini or Napier, may refresh his knowledge of the era which the restless Corsican made immortal. Limited by space, there is yet a well-digested mass within these covers, clearly collated and tersely expressed. To the British public they must be highly acceptable ; their chief interest to us lies in their thoroughly British point of view. To the average Briton, the Titanic wars from 1796 to 1815 seem to have been mainly waged by England ; Napoleon's downfall to have been due to her men and money ; the gigantic continental armies and equal expenditure to have counted for less. "It must be generally admitted," says Lord Wolseley, "that it was the war maintained by England against France, in Spain by land, and all over the world by sea, together with . . . her lavish subsidies, that eventually destroyed him." This view is traceable to that Anglo-Saxon singleness of aim which has conquered the world, the inheritance of which indeed has built up our own great country. Were one of us to write from